

April 1, 2015

Board of Selectman  
Town of Windham  
3 North Lowell Road  
Windham, NH. 03087

As a resident of Autumn St. I wanted to express my thanks for the opportunity to express our concerns at the recent BOS meeting on the Kinder Morgan proposed pipeline. The defeat of the motion, opposing the plan, was however a deep and personal loss for my neighbors and myself.

We all knew going into this hearing, that the actions of the board would have little significance on the ultimate approval process of the pipeline. The larger battle will be fought on the federal level. But the position of our community is the building block on which the pressure can be applied to both the state and federal levels. The defeat of the motion was a missed opportunity for the town and the impacted residents.

The majority of selectman raised three arguments in defeating the motion. First, that the plans were incomplete and the board would rather withhold comment until the plans were finalized. Second, maintaining hope that the pipeline would be located with the power corridor ROW, which would minimize the impact to abutters. Finally, the fact that the pipeline was providing no benefit to Windham was not a sufficient argument to withhold support since it might provide benefit to the region.

A closer look at the facts would indicate otherwise.

- First, this project has been in the planning for several years. The plans we see today are about as specific as they are going to get until the pipe is in the ground. The merit of the proposal should have been weighed on the plan as presented, not on the hope that a new plan would materialize. Our only hope for changing plans is now. Once the plan is filed (Fall 2015) we have little chance of affecting change.
- Second, the hope that the pipeline would be located within the power corridor ROW, is just that.... a hope. To date the entire 'colocation' is an elaborate sales pitch. The current plans show no colocation rather a new adjacent ROW. Kinder Morgan will promise to try 'real hard' to keep the pipe in the power corridor but the fact is, it is not essential to their plans. The fact that Kinder Morgan does not have permission to use the power corridor, even after several years of planning, should establish that the hope is really a pipe dream.
- Finally, the lack of a town benefit from the pipeline shouldn't preclude acceptance? The analogy that the pipeline is like a highway being built thru

town was a weak and cynical attempt to discredit the opposition to the pipeline. While none of us want to be an obstacle to a project enhancing the 'common good'. Why must we assume this pipeline is for the 'common good'? Because the corporation says so? Why not give equal weight to the evidence that the need is not as great as a corporation wants you to believe. Already the Massachusetts Attorney General's office has been asked to investigate charges that Kinder Morgan is manipulating pricing and marketing for its benefit. Who would have thought?

Personally I think we can do better. We don't have to jump on every infrastructure project because industry says we need it. Rather we need a smart and thoughtful approach to our energy needs. One that balances current and future needs with all options on the table, not just one corporation's interest.

While disappointed with the defeated motion, the neighborhood's resolve on the issue has been reinvigorated. We note the elected officials who have supported us and we will remember those that have chosen to remain silent. We welcome further BOS meetings with Kinder Morgan, where a corporation will be treated with the same skepticism as the residents opposed. The residents of West Windham find their lives on hold until this is resolved. Plans for retirement, relocation, home improvements are on hold. Even a peaceful evening stroll is a vivid reminder of what we may lose.

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